

THE LETTER OF ST. JOHN

ROME, Oct. 1.—Fifty-two new cases of cholera and thirty deaths are reported from Genoa during the past twenty-four hours. At Naples there were 128 new cases and forty deaths reported during the same period.

UNYON & HOCKER.

KNIGHTS OF THE FLAMES

Applying the Torch to Property in Pennsylvania.

An Organized Gang Covering a Half a Dozen Counties—The Farmers Organized for Self-Protection—Depredations.

READING, Pa., Oct. 1.—For the past few weeks fire have occurred nearly every day in Lehigh, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery and Berks counties, which were of an incendiary origin. The properties destroyed mostly were of the finest and most substantial in their respective vicinities. The losses will aggregate some \$75,000, not a third of which is covered by insurance. The police authorities were unable to trace the perpetrators but it has been discovered that there is a large gang of men, composed of the most worthless characters, who have formed themselves into an association for the purpose of robbery and incendiarism. The victims are nearly all farmers, who have their fine barns and year's crop destroyed, and they are now alarmed that they do not consider their lives or property safe.

In several of the counties named meetings have been held to devise some means of protection and strong resolutions were adopted. In the northern part of Lebanon County three fire insurance companies have been organized in as many weeks. The associations secured their charters yesterday, and the farmers in that neighborhood will be their own detectives.

Among the many incendiary acts committed within the last twenty-four hours by a number of the supposed gang was the burning of the barn of Henry E. Shelby, about four miles west of Mount Joy, which was destroyed, together with its contents, consisting of 600 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of oats, a lot of corn, four horses, two cows, eighty chickens, and farming implements, causing a loss of \$10,000. Mr. Daugherty, who lived on the farm, ran into the stable to save his property and was fatally burned. This was the work of an incendiary. While the destruction was going on the indignation among the farmers was high, and threats were loudly made.

Another case was the burning of the barn of Henry G. Feltz, in Buckingham Township, Bucks County, which was completely destroyed, involving a loss of \$500. In this case two arrests were made, and the prisoners lodged lightly in jail.

The residences of James Martin and David Martin adjoining near Rydenbach's store, Lancaster County, were also totally destroyed, involving a loss of \$500. The prisoners are vagrants who have been loafing about the town, sleeping in stables and too lazy to work. They are supposed to belong to the gang.

The citizens held a meeting at the city hall to consider means and measures to affect the arrest of the incendiaries who infest the city. Wm. Halsey presided and B. F. Freiler acted as secretary. After an exchange of opinions and sentiments, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved—As the sense of the meeting of the citizens and business men, that every effort should be put forth by the city authorities to detect and to bring to punishment the person or persons believed to be guilty of incendiarism in our midst, and that we will approve the most energetic and effective measures possible, and we would also recommend the appointment of a vigilance committee in each of the cities.

This was done, and there are now thirty special policemen strolling the streets.

A TOWN PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

MONTREAL, Oct. 1.—The fire in Louisville village swept away between fifty and sixty houses, chiefly occupied by working people of modest means, and a large convent. A strong breeze fanned the flames, and as a brigade of worthless volunteers only opposed it the fire burned all before it until the wind changed. It saved the best portion of the town. Poor families are almost crazed with grief. The loss will exceed \$100,000. There was no insurance except on the convent and the premises of Dominicans Lamy.

PETERSBURG, Va., Oct. 1.—A destructive forest fire is raging along the line of the Norfolk & Western Railroad in Dinwiddie County, about six miles from this city.

"BAD MELICAN MAN."

The Sly Dodge by Which Chinamen Reach Our Shores.

New York, Oct. 1.—Twenty old Chinamen arrived to-day from Havana on the way to the Flamingo Kingdom. They were asked if they had had any trouble with the custom house authorities on account of the law prohibiting the entrance of Chinamen to this country.

"Melican law no good," said the leading man. "We got naturalized by Spanish Government and then come to New York as Spanish subjects, not as Chinamen. We paid \$10 in Havana for naturalization papers and passport, and that makes us Spaniards. Melican man got no law against Spaniards. The French, Portuguese, Mexicans and Chinese all do the same. America is the only nation in the West that has prejudices against Chinamen and does not allow us the equality of rights that they so much boast of."

The new arrivals are domiciled at Woe Kees and get signs in Mott street.

NUBAR PASHA INTERVIEWED.

He Explains the Present Financial Embarrassment in Egypt.

Cairo, Oct. 1.—In an interview today Nubar Pasha said that owing to the distress throughout the country it was impossible to collect taxes now due. Severe business reverses, losses by Palestine by his army and a poor quality of crops have, he said, made it the imperative duty of the Government to grant a remission of taxes in order to partly alleviate the suffering of the people. Lord Northbrook, the English High Commissioner, is now engaged in studying the system of taxation in Egypt. It is his duty to report in all quarters, in regard to the present situation of affairs, the best means of affording relief to the people, and at the same time to make the Egyptian Government to satisfy, as far as possible, the demands

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